

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Patent Application  
No. PCT/EP2004/014751

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Attorney Docket: THIE3021/JEK

Applicant: Bernard THIERS et al.

For: SKIRTING BOARD, FLOOR COVERING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
MANUFACTURING A SKIRTING BOARD

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE EXAMINATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This paper accompanies documents submitted to initiate national stage processing of the above-identified international patent application. Before examination on the merits, the application is amended as follows.

**AMENDMENTS**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The amendments to the claims appear in the following pages under the heading "LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS". The claim listing replaces all previous versions of the claims presented in this application, and indicates any currently presented amendments and the status of each of the listed claims.

The amendments to the claims of this application, which originated in a foreign country, are submitted before examination on the merits and are not intended to have a narrowing effect for the purpose of patentability, but rather are made for one or more of the following reasons: (i) to remove drawing reference numerals unnecessary under U.S. practice; (ii) to remove or reduce multiple dependent claims to reduce the filing fee;